

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - November 2014

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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CALIFORNIA, South Central

KERN COUNTY --- 6.0 W BAKERSFIELD [35.37, -119.11]

11/01/14 00:00 PST	0	Heavy Rain
11/01/14 01:00 PST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Roadway flooding due to heavy rain. Estimated rainfall 0.75 inches.

KINGS COUNTY --- 1.0 NE LEMOORE [36.31, -119.77]

11/01/14 00:00 PST	0	Heavy Rain
11/01/14 01:30 PST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

An apartment roof collapsed due to heavy rain. Reported by local media via twitter. Rain estimated 0.75 inches from combination of nearby ASOS and COCORAHS reports.

TULARE COUNTY --- 5.0 WNW TULARE [36.25, -119.43]

11/01/14 00:00 PST	0	Heavy Rain
11/01/14 01:30 PST	0	Source: Law Enforcement

Roadway flooding due to heavy rain. Estimated rainfall 0.75 inches.

(CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS

11/01/14 00:00 PST	0	Heavy Snow
11/01/14 11:00 PST	0	

TULARE COUNTY --- 0.9 SE TIPTON [36.06, -119.31]

11/01/14 15:00 PST	0	Funnel Cloud
11/01/14 15:05 PST	0	Source: Broadcast Media

A funnel cloud was reported near Road 152 and Avenue 128 and verified with pictures from the media.

The storm system that moved into central California on October 31, 2014 brought heavy snow in the mountains and significant rainfall to the San Joaquin Valley, along with gusty winds from the afternoon of October 30 to the morning of November 1. This was the first significant storm of winter 2014-2015 for central California.

As the storm approached, winds began to blow through the passes of the coastal mountains into the west side of the San Joaquin Valley on the evening of October 30. Winds gusted 35 to 45 mph for several hours in the late afternoon and evening.

Light rain arrived in the northwestern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, near Los Banos between 1 and 2 pm PST, but the more significant rain did not arrive until 4 pm PST on October 31. The rain spread slowly south and east across the Valley through the evening as snow developed in the Sierra Nevada. Ahead of the leading edge of precipitation, gusty winds developed, resulting in areas of blowing dust for a brief period before the rain began. Winds gusted up to 45 mph in Bakersfield with a report of wind damage.

Rainfall amounts ranged from a minimum 0.03 inches in the Kern County Desert, to a maximum of 2.57 inches in the Sierra Foothills. Across the San Joaquin Valley, rain was in the 0.5 to 1.00 inch range. The heavy rain caused minor flooding on roadways, but in general was seen as beneficial due to the ongoing exceptional drought conditions.

Snow amounts in the Sierra Nevada were 9 to 17 inches with the heaviest amounts occurring above 6000 feet. As much as 7 inches of snow was reported as low as 4000 feet elevation.

As unsettled conditions continued during the afternoon of November 1, a cold air funnel cloud developed in the San Joaquin Valley.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z093) S SIERRA FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z094) TULARE CTY FOOTHILLS, (CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS, (CA-Z096) S SIERRA MTNS, (CA-Z097) TULARE CTY MTNS, (CA-Z098) INDIAN WELLS VLY, (CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

11/01/14 00:00 PST	0	Drought
11/30/14 23:59 PST	0	

The California drought continued in full force during the month of November, 2014. Exceptional drought was detected by the U.S. Drought Monitor for almost the entire Central California region. This extent of exceptional drought is extremely unusual for California. The 2013-2014 water year (July 1 - June 30) concluded with Fresno setting its second driest on record (4.81 inches) and Bakersfield setting its third driest (2.41 inches).

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There continues to be significant media coverage on the on-going drought conditions. These reports include discussion of significant re-allocation of water resources from the east to west side of the San Joaquin Valley, farmers forgoing planting of some crops, a decrease in the snow-related tourism activity in the Southern Sierra Nevada, reduction in air quality due to persistent stagnant air, loss or reduction of ground water, wells drying up in several communities leaving them with no water, and an unprecedented increase in fire danger across the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains. For the first time on record, red flag warnings were issued in January for not only the Southern Sierra Nevada and the Tehachapi Mountains but also the south end of the San Joaquin Valley.

(CA-Z089) W CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

	11/07/14 06:00 PST	0	Dense Fog
	11/09/14 09:00 PST	0	

In the wake of the storm that moved through the region on Halloween, bringing up to an inch of rain in the San Joaquin Valley, areas of dense fog developed each night between November 2 and November 10. Most of the nights, the area affected was primarily along Highway 198 in the vicinity of Hanford and along Highway 43 from Selma to Corcoran. There were a few school bus delays due to the fog.

However, on the morning of November 7, the area of dense fog became more widespread and included the Fresno area. On that morning, the visibility at Fresno-Yosemite International fell to 1/16 of a mile, delaying all flights into and out of the airport. The fog also caused 10 school bus delays.

On the morning of November 9, there was a fatality traffic accident that occurred in the dense fog involving 1 vehicle and a pole.

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

	11/15/14 13:20 PST	1K	Strong Wind (MAX 45 kt)
	11/16/14 01:00 PST	0	

A weak disturbance moved through across southern California on November 13 and 14 but brought only mid and high clouds across central California with some virga. Despite this disturbance, dense fog formed in the San Joaquin Valley during the morning hours of the 14th. Visibility was less than 1/4 mile at many locations including Madera, Fresno, Visalia, Hanford, and Lemoore. At times visibility was less than 200 feet.

A ridge of high pressure followed the weak disturbance, with the axis over the coast of California on the 15th. The resulting northwesterly flow brought gusty winds to the Kern County desert, mainly below the passes of the Tehachapi mountains.

Surface high pressure strengthened in the Great Basin by Sunday, November 16th. This turned the flow offshore and brought gusty easterly winds along with very dry conditions across the Kern County Mountains. The winds followed the terrain and became southeasterly and gusted 35 to 45 mph at times. Humidity also fell to less than 10 percent for 20 to 34 hours on November 16th to the 18th. Red flag warnings were in effect for that time period, but no significant fire activity was reported.

(CA-Z090) E CENTRAL S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z091) SW S.J. VALLEY, (CA-Z092) SE S.J. VALLEY

	11/21/14 01:00 PST	0	Dense Fog
	11/21/14 08:48 PST	0	

(CA-Z095) KERN CTY MTNS

	11/22/14 10:30 PST	1K	High Wind (MAX 51 kt)
	11/22/14 19:00 PST	0	

(CA-Z099) SE KERN CTY DESERT

	11/22/14 10:30 PST	1K	Strong Wind (MAX 45 kt)
	11/22/14 19:00 PST	0	

A series of weak storm systems moved through central California on November 19-22. Although these storms did not bring much precipitation, they did bring gusty winds over the Kern County mountains and desert areas with gusts over 45 mph.

The storms also brought enough moisture for areas of dense fog to develop in the San Joaquin Valley during the early morning hours of the 21st. Visibility lowered to less than 1/4 mile with a few areas reporting visibility less than 500 feet.